

Hunting for Wild Boar!

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — From a distance, a feral pig, better known as a wild pig or wild boar, looks very similar to the barnyard variety.

They're the same color. Many are black. There are white ones and red ones and spotted ones.

But that's about where the similarity ends. They have the habits of wild animals, feeding at night and shading up during the day. They're seldom very far from cover and even when unaware they're being watched, take advantage of all the brush around.

There's nothing pretty about a wild pig but, if they walked on their hind legs they'd have a physique that would be the envy of any health studio. Their front shoulders are broad and powerful and their neck is as thick as their head. The hind quarters are slim and built for speed.

These pigs run unbelievably fast. This makes for difficult shooting when they're going away from you but, rest assured, that's the best direction. For, up close, the wild pig is nothing but bad news.

The tusks are spectacular only in the biggest boars, then running up to four inches long. The sows and younger boars have tusks only 1 1/2 to two inches long. But they're positioned so the top and bottom tusks rub together, making a perpetual sharpener, like a pair of scissors or a lawn mower.

AND THE pigs have the personality to go with the tusks. Up on Bill Keeler's Dye Creek Ranch, a 100-square-mile spread just out of Los Molinos in Tehama county, boars have charged man, dog or horse with abandon.

That's one of the reasons all wild boar hunting at Dye Creek is with guides (\$65 per day covers room and board, transportation, guide and, best of all, a pack horse to

haul out the pig). Of course, 100 square miles is a lot of country to get over and a guide is handy to help find the pigs.

But, as one of the guides with us on a recent trip indicated, there are better reasons.

"If you see a pig at pretty close range, it's a good idea to pick out a tree," he said. "That's the one thing they can't do, is climb trees. And if I say to climb a tree, start climbing. Forget about your rifle."

WE WERE fortunate again this year to hunt two weekends in February at Dye Creek (the main reason, unregulated by the state, runs from January through March). On both weekends, we scored within 10 minutes of when we'd started hunting. The best one was on the first weekend, when we heart-shot a running boar at about 100 yards, downhill.

As is usual, the pigs were at the bottom of a steep canyon, around the stream. The fun would have gone out of that hunt real sudden-like if it weren't for the packhorse which arrived an hour or so later. For 150 to 175 pounds of wild hog is not an easy load. They don't have the long legs of a deer to help in the carrying.

There were five or six in our party both weekends and, to a man, they went overboard on wild pig hunting. It was a new experience for them all and they rated it as more exciting than deer hunting.

SPEAKING of deer, Dye Creek is loaded with them and we saw upwards of 300 on each weekend. We've hunted the ranch during deer season and there are just as many around during the open season, if not more.

With the weather nice and the countryside green and fresh, wild pig hunting is a great sport for what normally are pretty slow months.

Stock, Modified Cars To Pair Up at Ascot

More than 60 top drivers have entered the first double-header program of Figure 8 stock car racing for both modified and stock division cars Sunday afternoon at Ascot Park in Gardena.

Racing starts at 1:30 p.m., preceded by qualifying runs at 12 noon.

Topping the day's program of criss-cross racing will be a pair of 20-lap features. Other racing includes a 15-lap semi-main, heat races, and two 6-lap trophy dashes, plus a special 10-lap race for women drivers.

Heading the field will be PRA point leader Don Davis of Bell Gardens, winner of the last Figure 8 race at Ascot two weeks ago, his first feature win of the year.

Davis has 205 points, fol-

lowed by Dorsey Steele of Huntington Park with 200. Steele won the season opener, but has failed in several attempts to move into the winner's circle again.

Tied for third in the point battle are Tom Lyle of Gardena, and Ken Magill of Hermosa Beach, both with 115 points. Fifth position is currently held down by Bob DuBois of Redondo Beach with 100.

Other top drivers expected for Sunday's double-bill are Gene Millard of Lynwood, Ross Boardman of Sun Valley, Butch Farrell and Les Cuppett of Wilmington, Jerry Kessler of Norwalk, Bob Stone of Huntington Beach, Red Griffin and Bill Bussey of Gardena.

Dan Donovan and Ed May of Long Beach, Jim Cundiff of Bell, Nick Nixon of Culver City, Otto Hayes of El Segundo, Tommy Sastel of Redondo Beach, and Jim Adams of South Gate will also be on hand.

Basketball Game

South High varsity football and basketball players will oppose each other Friday night in a Donkey basketball game.

Youth Soccer Meeting Set For Central Little League Title Won By Panthers

Two games were played at Jefferson Elementary School grounds due to the wet condition of the Continental Soccer Field last week.

The Panthers defeated the Bulldogs, 4-1, on two goals a piece by David Adair and Victor Jordan.

Jordan scored five minutes after the start with a drive into the corner from 30 yards out. Jordan drove another grass cutter that went between a maze of players in front of the goal. Goalie Pat Kelly didn't see the ball until it was too late and couldn't hold onto the ball.

With five minutes to go for the first half, David Adair hooked one from the left into the faraway corner of the goal. The second half saw Bob Wells score a beauty from 20 yards. However, the strong Panthers continued to press and Adair scored his second with five minutes to go. By winning, the Panthers clinched the first division championship for the 1966-1967 season.

Team, manager, and player assignments will be announced. The league will consist of six major, six minor and four training teams. Boys who signed up and their parents are urged to attend this important meeting. Boys missing the meeting will be notified by his manager about the team's practice schedule.

Meeting Set For Central Little League

Torrance Central Little League will hold its 1967 general meeting, Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Torrance Recreation Center, Madrona and Torrance Boulevard.

Team, manager, and player assignments will be announced.

The league will consist of six major, six minor and four training teams.

Boys who signed up and their parents are urged to attend this important meeting.

Boys missing the meeting will be notified by his manager about the team's practice schedule.

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